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LIBERTARIAN SOCIALIST



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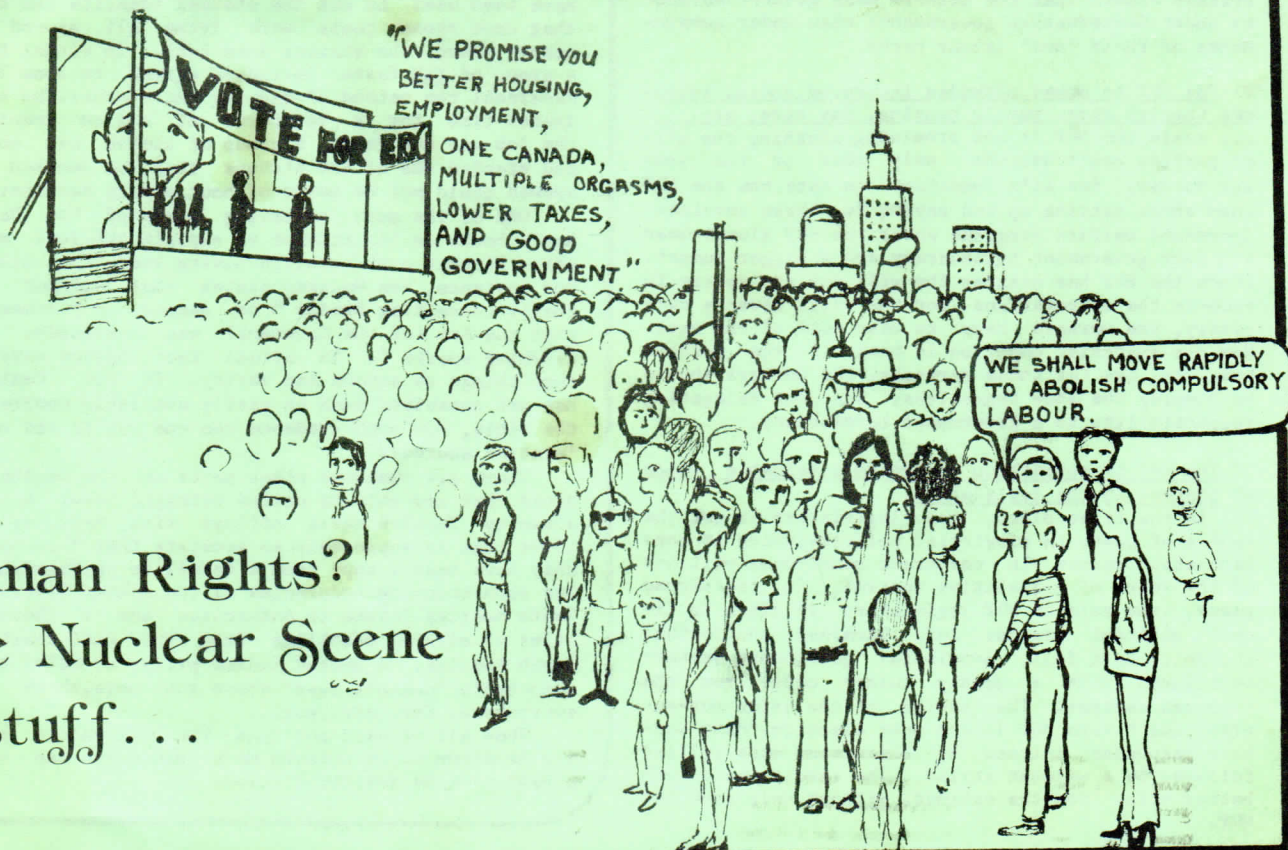
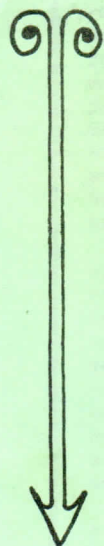
VOL. II; NO. 11

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Happy

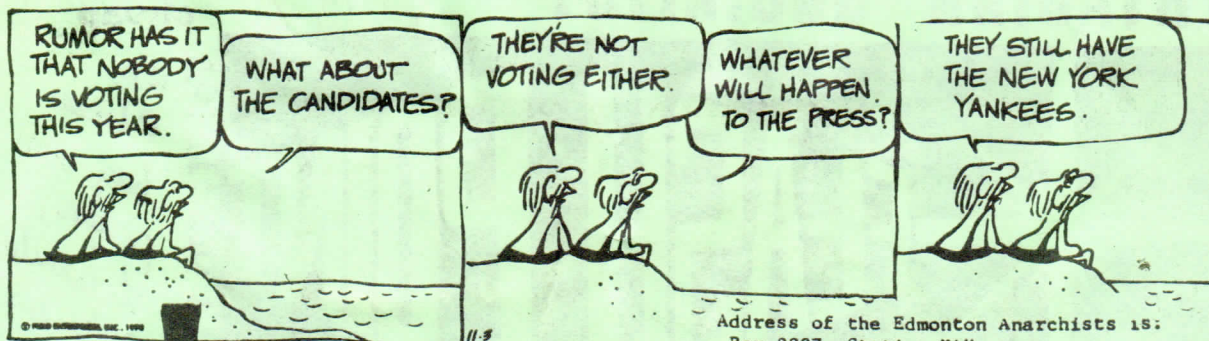
Fairview Collective
20 Fairview Ave.
Kitchener, Ontario

the alternative news

An Anti Election Campaign?
Around the World News Items
Opinions You Probably Aren't Interested In
(Or are you?)



Human Rights?
The Nuclear Scene
& stuff....



ANARCHISM, ELECTIONS AND SOCIAL "DEMOCRACY"

... an Edmonton View

A leaflet received from the anarchist group in Edmonton outlines a number of reasons which many sincere people give for voting and supporting the New Democratic Party (Canada's social democrats). After each reason an anarchist rejoinder is given. Three of the above are reprinted here.

1) The NDP in power provides legal protection for working people from the abuses of capitalist society.

... It's not necessary to elect a "socialist" government to bring about these types of measures ... conservative governments are willing to oblige if sufficient pressure is brought to bear. Benevolent laws which are the result of direct action on the part of the oppressed are generally worth more than those acquired indirectly through the electoral process. Saskatchewan has enjoyed the most progressive labour laws in Canada for 35 years, but this has not produced a working class noted for cohesion and militancy in that province. A study of wages in Great Britain showed that the workers made greater advances under Conservative governments than under governments of their "own" labour party.

2) The NDP in power provides increased social services (health care, public housing, day care, etc.).

... Again, the NDP is not promising anything the other parties can't deliver - only more of the same and sooner. But it's important to note how the NDP goes about setting up and paying for these services. Increased welfare programs under the NDP always mean a bigger government bureaucracy and a bigger budget. Since the NDP has neither the will nor the desire to squeeze the corporations for the extra revenue necessary, the workers have to bear most of the cost. Now the anarchist position is that if the workers have to pay for these services, the workers should be running the show themselves, and not delegating responsibility to a government bureaucracy.

3) The NDP in opposition provides a valuable voice of protest in the legislature.

... In the first place, the legislature is not the centre of power in provincial politics, which is concentrated rather in corporate boardrooms well out of the reach of legislative control. In the second place, the role of NDP legislators is often to divert militant protest into harmless, ineffectual channels. Last fall, provincial government workers were faced with a measly salary offer from the Lougheed cabinet. The advice of the union bureaucrats was "Vote NDP in the next election." Many workers responded instead by organizing mass rallies followed by a wildcat strike. The result was a much better offer from the cabinet, without help from the NDP.

Address of the Edmonton Anarchists is:
Box 2827, Station "A"
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada.

CULT OF THE MONTH:

GODS THAT GO BUMP IN THE PAST

Few authors could claim to be as successful as Eric Von Daniken. His books have sold millions of copies the world over. The revenue generated has made Von Daniken a millionaire. In the process his ideas have passed into the mythology of popular culture, along with UFO's, Bermuda Triangles, pyramid power and the like. Just what sort of factual basis, however, does Von Daniken build his theories on?

To compile an exhaustive list of the many distortions, fanciful thoughts and outright lies in Von Daniken's work would fill far more paper than I have available here. A few choice examples will have to do. The Easter Island statues are one of Von Daniken's favourite 'mysteries'. In his book he states that "2,000 men" would not be enough to mine, carve and transport the statues to their final positions. He also states that stone tools could not have been used to cut the statues (despite the fact that used stone tools were lying all around the quarry where the statues were cut). In actual fact a group of SIX Easter Islanders agreed to show Thor Heyerdahl the method of carving the statues. The estimated time for a workforce of six to complete the job was one year. A group of twelve men moved and erected one of the statues that Von Daniken had avowed could not be moved without modern machinery.

One of the more revealing parts of Von Daniken's books is his attempt to explain biblical miracles without ever actually having read the bible. For instance, Von Daniken states that "without actually consulting Exodus" he seemed to "remember that the Ark (of the Covenant) was surrounded by flashing sparks". In actual fact Exodus says no such things as anyone can verify. If Von Daniken has not consulted such an easily available source as the Bible, how much credence can one put in his more 'exotic' sources?

There are numerous other parts of Von Daniken's books that can only be called outright lies. A map drawn by Turkish naval officer Piri Reis in the 1500s that is supposedly so accurate that "it could only have been a copy from a satellite photograph" has such stunning accuracies as two Amazon Rivers, South America joined to Antarctica and a thousand miles of missing coastline from the east coast of South America. A sacred Indian pillar at Delhi that supposedly "doesn't rust" shows rust here, there and everywhere. Etc., etc., etc...

When all is said and done Von Daniken can easily be shown to be nothing more than a con-man with a bent towards science fiction.

Flashpoint for the news nobody else will tell you...

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MORE ON THE ANTI-ELECTION

Last issue we discussed the question of the main parties and the fringes of the right and left. We also gave one good reason for not voting NDP, i.e. that a strong left wing abstention would force the NDP to move leftwards to attract back votes lost. Let's go a bit further into the question of the NDP.

Many people vote for the NDP because it does promise, and sometimes delivers, social welfare measures, measures such as medicare, auto insurance and dental care. What libertarian socialists have to ask is "at what cost"? Who pays? It is a simple fact that the great 80% of government expenditures are financed from the income tax system. Now I hardly think that it is news to the readers of this paper that lower-middle and middle income people pay the bulk of income tax in this country. The rich are always able to find a loophole or ten. Beyond this, how are government 'welfare' schemes administered? A Prime example is the Indian Affairs Department of the federal government, where the largest part of the money allocated goes towards administration rather than to the Indian bands. To make a long story short - government is inefficient, as everybody knows.

What happens because of this inefficiency? First the cost of various social services rises as the government takes them over. If the government were ever to take over the Salvation Army's function of providing shelter one could bet bottom dollar that the cost would at least triple in the first year. Secondly, as costs rise the average

taxpayer becomes less and less willing to funnel an increasing amount of his or her wage into the bloated bureaucracy. Hence the tax revolt. This puts a definite limit on the social services that can be provided through government, a limit which a lot of the supporters of the NDP don't realize exists. Thirdly, should a fiscal crisis arise for a given government the first items of spending to be cut will be social services. In the absence of independent, non-party, organizing the recipients of social services have little political clout. In other words the social service programs are a sponge. They are filled up when there is discontent and squeezed out when times favour it.

What do we propose instead? Simply this, that social welfare begin to become a concern of the community rather than the government. We propose such libertarian solutions as community kitchens, as car pools to get senior citizens around, as neighbourhood babysitting networks rather than government daycare centres (or private enterprise ones). In general we propose a return of social services to the community and a corresponding reduction of government taxes. We think that a serious economic analysis (rather than one dedicated to the need to preserve jobs for social workers) would show the practicality of our analysis.

NEXT ISSUE - THE NDP AND LABOUR

POLICY:

FLASHPOINT is an independent libertarian socialist newsjournal. We are unaffiliated with any other political organization and receive no grants or subsidies from any agency. Our survival depends on the generosity of our readers.

FLASHPOINT is published on a monthly basis. On occasion we send out, and will be sending out short bulletins and letters concerning events in the Sask. area it is felt would be of interest to our readers. We appreciate any written contributions. Signed articles express the viewpoint of the author and not necessarily that of the Flashpoint staff.

FLASHPOINT hopes to serve as an outlet for news releases from various "peoples" organizations. Any releases submitted will be edited only for brevity and clarity. Material will not be distorted.

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FLASHPOINT subscriptions are \$4.00 for 24 issues for individuals and \$10.00 for institutions. Larger sustaining donations are welcomed.

LOCAL

A review of CBC television's national "talkback" program.

Slinging the bull from coast to coast

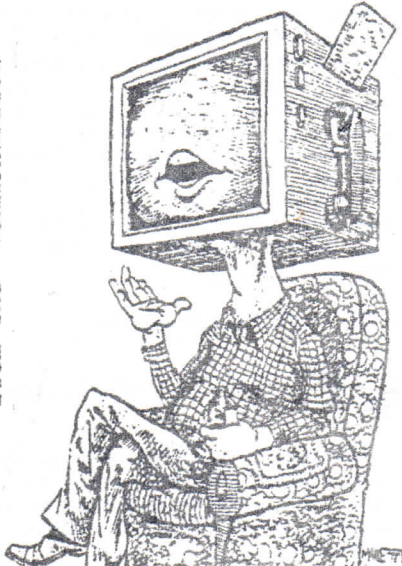
By Philip D. Redant

Sunday night, February 4, the CBC should consider a name-change to CBS. People Talking Back might have been a great concept, but its execution was (unfortunately) delayed.

The programme was good for a few laughs. For example the group from Quebec complained about getting only six of the 180 allotted minutes. It was just as well. One of their spokesmen had an Oxford accent.

At least, in that case a minority group was presented. There was very little of that, even in the filmed sequences. Most of those sequences were shot in the East or in Winnipeg or in Vancouver.

from the "Commonwealth"



Saskatchewan got a total of five minutes.

And the jargon! It should have been expected. Anything with the word "education" in it should be avidly avoided by anyone with respect for the English language. The peak of 'superfluous verbosity' was reached near the end when several people made a summation of what had gone before.

"Maximizing one's potential" was contrasted nicely by the following: "The input and output was truly mind-boggling." Indeed, "Mind-boggling" for stenotypists, perhaps, but not so good for "people."

Then there was the Ted Baxter award winner on the telephones: "Wow! What can I say?" "People Talking Back"? To whom? And just who was doing the talking?

"I think our biggest problem today is the government. They should be -"

"Sorry; your time is up. Let's go to Newfoundland."

"Hello? I think a step in the right direction is to nationalize -"

"Whoops! I mean Saskatchewan."

"It's labour; that's w++" BZAPP!

"Sorry; bad connection. Let's go to Edmonton."

"Hello. I think we Canadians complain just too much. We've got a wonderful country here, with no problems to speak of. We should maximize our potential (applause) and go on - upward and onward, plowing the fertile fields of understanding, with input and output for all. (Loud applause). And, furthermore..." For fifteen minutes! People talking back? Who was sponsoring the programme? A certain political party?

Sixty minutes on the economy and on jobs. Only 180 minutes. And, during those three hours, several people spent precious time reciting odes to the CBC, the "people's network," which was giving them a chance to be heard. Oh, for a televised half-hour at any farm machinery dealership!

As was written in the beginning: CBC should really change its name - to C (and Hear) BS.



"Workers' participation in industry! What, and share the blame for the way it's run?"

METIS ASSOCIATION POSITION ON ELECTIONS

(Regina) AMNSIS, the Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan, have stated their reasons for refusing to give 'blanket support to the NDP in the last election. The statement, printed in a recent issue of 'NewBreed' deserves a cheer particularly from libertarian socialists. AMNSIS noted that the type of people who become politicians, ie. "lawyers, teachers, farmers and small businessmen" will, "very seldom... deal with racism or the economic factors which cause our people to be under-employed and forced into a life of poverty." As AMNSIS noted, if they were to "affiliate ourselves with one political party because it was less racist than the others, there would be no reason for that party to do anything to change the situation in which we are forced to live". AMNSIS noted that the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour has developed a deep split because of the leadership's support of the NDP. The Metis association intends "to be politically free and independent, and avoid this kind of split."

SASKATCHEWAN DAYCARE ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED

(Saskatoon) Representatives of daycare workers throughout Saskatchewan met in Saskatoon in late October to establish a province-wide child care association. The delegates called for the establishment of universal 24 hour daycare.

TWO NEW ANARCHIST GROUPS FORMED

(Saskatoon, Edmonton) Two new prairie anarchist groups have surfaced in the New Year. In Edmonton, long a centre of anarchist activity, several local anarchists have decided to formalize themselves by setting up the 'Edmonton Anarchists' (Box 2827, Station A, Edmonton, Alberta). In addition to their work on the national anti-election campaign the Edmonton group has also launched a 'don't vote' campaign around the Alberta provincial election. Meanwhile in Saskatoon a new group centred around the upcoming anti-election has been formed. The 'Friends of Tom Turkey' plans to run the famous Tom Turkey, "The Only Honest Turkey in the Race" for his umpteenth election. The Friends can be reached at Box 7702, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

PCBs CARCINOGENIC SAYS REPORT

A recent report of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, (IARC Monographs, Vol. 18) has said "polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) should be regarded as if they were carcinogenic to humans". PCBs are the chemical released in the 'government coverup' spill in Regina. There is, the IARC report says, "experimental evidence of a carcinogenic effect of some polychlorinated biphenyls in rodents."

NEW GAY GROUP FORMED IN REGINA

"The recently formed Regina local of the S.G.C. has renamed itself GAY REGINA. The new group, which has generated considerable interest, will provide alternatives to Regina's gay community not presently supplied by the almost entirely disco/social perspective of the existing Atropos Fellowship Society /Odyssey Club (Regina Gay Community). The RGC has consented to the use of its facilities by the new group.

Gay Regina has already been busy. They plan to recruit and train more phone line personnel so as to expand the existing counselling service, they have been lobbying MLA's in regard to the upcoming changes in human rights legislation, they plan to reopen and expand library services, they plan to offer alternate social activities and establish a regular drop-in. The group may be contacted at 2242 Smith St or telephone 525-8915."

- from the Saskatchewan Gay Coalition Newsletter.-



"WELL, YES... I GUESS YOU WOULD QUALIFY FOR A LOADING CREW AT THAT"

SOLIDARITY SATURDAY

(Saskatoon) The second annual 'Solidarity Saturday' will be held at St. Thomas Moore College on the University Campus on March 24th. The event will start at 3:30 with seminars conducted by the Saskatoon Solidarity Committee, followed by a report by Oxfam field staff on 'Revolution and Reconstruction in Southern Africa'. There will be a curry dinner, followed by the film 'Soweto'. The Saskatoon Dance Workshop will conduct an evening performance and North Forty will provide music 'til midnight.

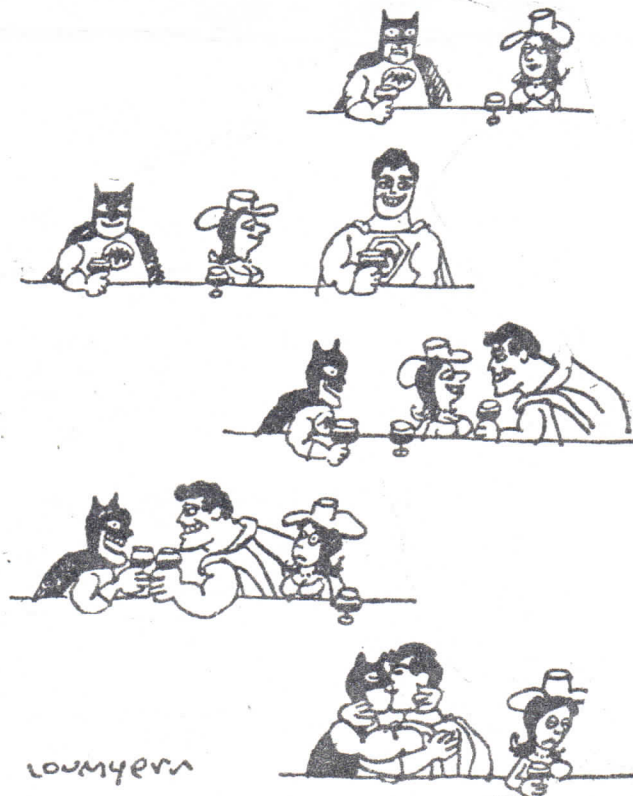
Tickets are \$2.50 for kids under 5, \$5.00 for adults and \$12.50 per family. Proceeds will go to projects supported by Oxfam in South Africa. Tickets can be had from One Sky, 134 Ave. F South (652-1571), Union Books, 650 Broadway Ave., Oxfam, - 136 Ave. F South or the MUB on campus.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES COORDINATE STRATEGY

Provincial government employees of the four western provinces have decided to set up a coordinating council to develop a uniform approach to negotiations with their respective governments. A spokeswoman for the Saskatchewan Government Employees Association said that the council was set up in response to a plan by the four provincial cabinets to co-ordinate their bargaining with employees. She noted that consultation has occurred between the provincial associations in the past but that this will be the first time that consultation will be carried out on a regular basis and involving all four provinces at once.

SASKATCHEWAN METIS CREDIT UNION PROPOSED

(Regina) The Saskatchewan Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians is planning to establish a Metis Credit Union. The project is similar to a Metis credit union started in Manitoba last year. The Manitoba operation provides only savings account services but hopes to expand its services into other areas soon. It is hoped that a credit union will help Metis people to achieve economic independence.



LOUMYER

Saskatchewan Gay Coalition
may be reached at:
Box 7508, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

FLASHPOINT

set 'em up

WITNESS "RECRUITED BY POLICE TO PLANT DRUGS"

(Victoria, BC) Peter Legault, a defence witness in a Victoria trafficking trial has testified that he was given money and drugs by narcotics officers to plant on an accused drug dealer in the summer of 1977. Testifying in the trial of Daniel White of Victoria, Legault said that he had been given 50 capsules of MDA which he was to supply to White. He was then instructed to tell White that a 'friend' (an undercover RCMP agent) wanted the drug. White apparently agreed to sell the drug back to the undercover cop.

BOROWSKI FACES ASSAULT CHARGES

(Winnipeg) Joe Borowski, Canada's most famous (infamous?) anti-abortion campaigner (see past issues of Flashpoint) has been charged with assault in connection with an attack on federal tax collection officer Douglas Shackell last November. The charge is one of common assault. Borowski has been withholding taxes for years because he alleges that federal government money is given in support of abortion.

NWT NIXES PLAN ON PARKS

(Yellowknife, NWT) After three hours of heated discussion the Northwest Territories Territorial Council unanimously rejected the federal government plan to open new national parks in the North. The meeting, which took place in early February, gave rise to statements that "Parks Canada should make existing national parks in the NWT accessible to tourists instead of opening up more wilderness parks which only rich southerners can afford to visit." In general the council felt that government park policy should be orientated more towards job creation for northerners.

WOODCOCK STARTS COLUMN

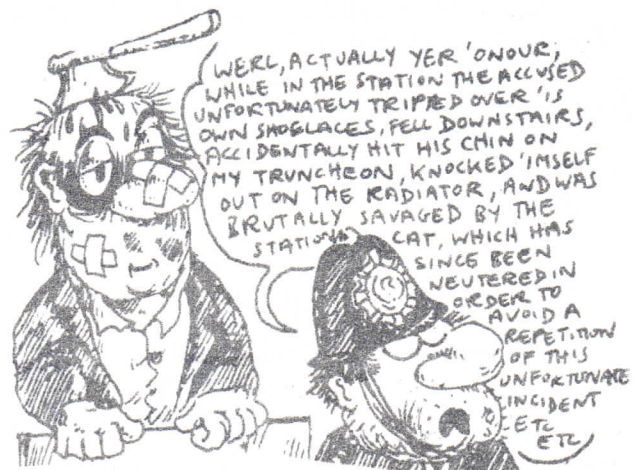
(Vancouver, BC) George Woodcock, one of Canada's most prolific writers and longtime veteran anarchist movement has undertaken to write a column for the Vancouver newspaper, the 'Georgia Straight'. The column will be called, appropriately enough, 'Taking the Liberty'. The first showing of the column slammed the Social Credit government's recent attacks on the Doukhobors of BC. The Doukhobors are a vegetarian pacifist sect, originally from Russia, who refuse to serve secular states by paying taxes or serving in the military.

- CANADIAN

demo planned

DIRECT ACTION IN DARLINGTON

(Darlington, Ontario) The Ontario Non-Nuclear Network has announced that it will occupy the Darlington nuclear power plant near Newcastle, Ontario on June 2. All participants in direct action will be given training in non-violent tactics and will work with an affinity group. There are off-site jobs available for those unwilling to engage in direct action. For further information contact Greenpeace Toronto, 121 Avenue Road, Toronto, Ont.

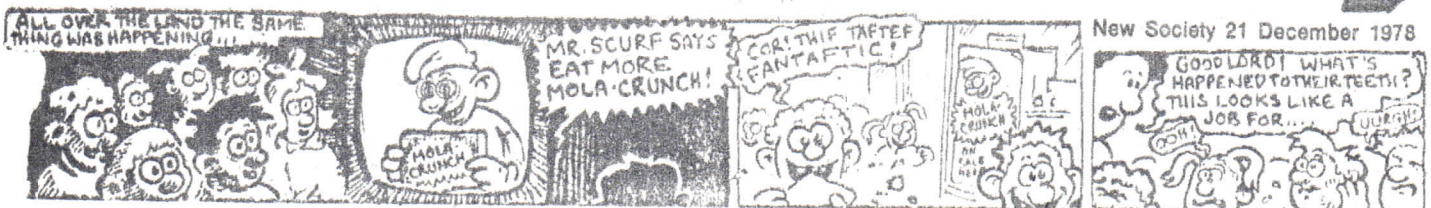


NATIONAL INDIAN ASSEMBLY SET FOR EDMONTON

(Edmonton) Plans are being formalized for the 'Great National Assembly' to be held in this city in August of this year. The assembly will be a gathering of thousands of native Canadians from across the country. The assembly will also honour Indian Canadians who have "distinguished themselves in politics, sports, and entertainment."

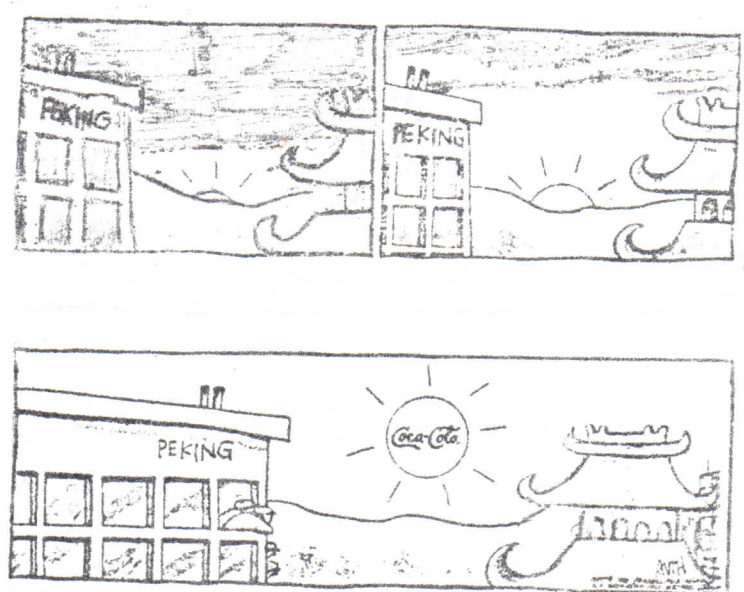
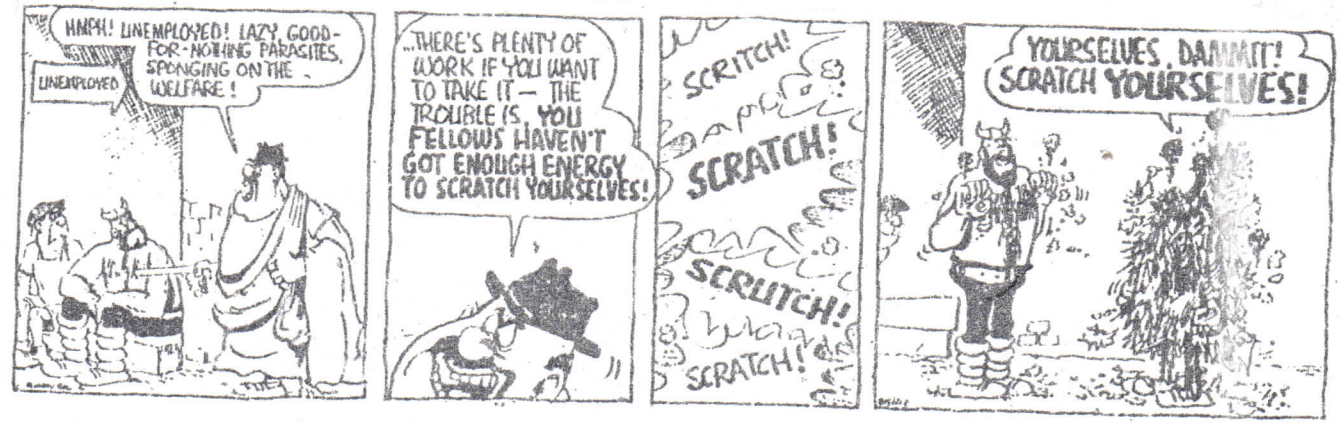
CANADIAN MINIMUM WAGE DROPS BELOW U.S. RATE

(Ottawa) Canada's minimum wage levels have dropped below those of the United States & recently released study has revealed. The study, reported in the January 8th edition of the 'Financial Times', revealed the Canadian average minimum wage of \$2.94 an hour trailed well behind the U.S. average which was "well over \$3.00 an hour". Four of the ten Canadian provinces had minimum wage levels below the 'rock bottom' U.S. minimum of \$2.90.



funnies

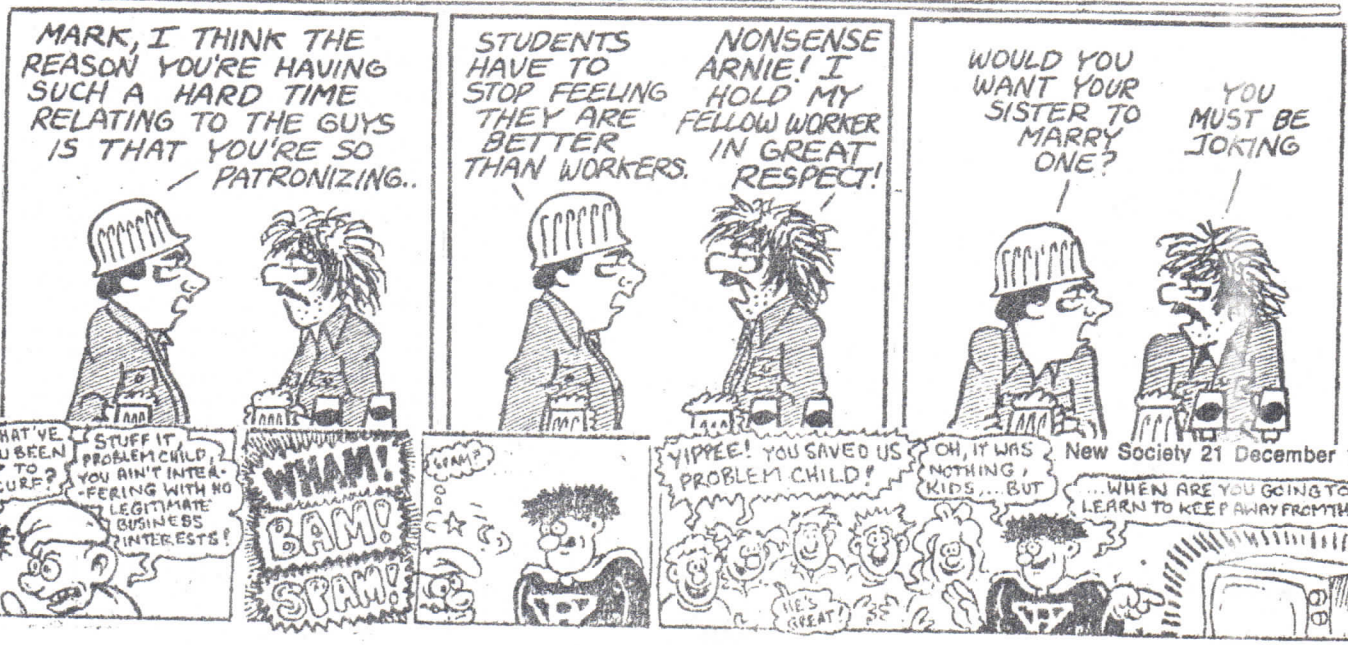
Bruce the Barbarian



by Murray Ball



"He's trying to get in the Guinness Book of World Records for keeping a ping-pong ball aloft three hours with 'Flight of the Bumblebee'."



Stateside

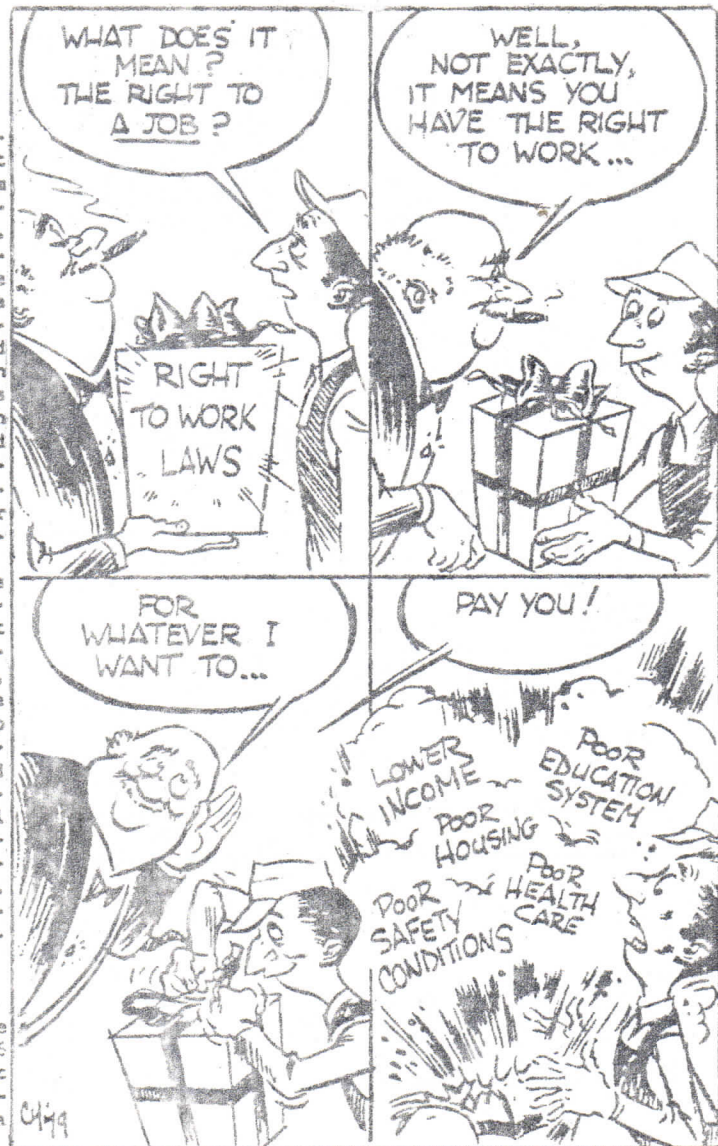
(AMERICAN NEWS)

Cheap Labour

(Ohio, California) Farm labourers in the Midwest and in California are still on strike against growers and food multinationals. In California farm workers are on strike against Imperial Valley growers who produce a third of the U.S. lettuce crop. The strike, led by Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers, is up against stiff resistance from growers. One striker has been shot and killed while others have been beaten by security guards. Meanwhile in Arizona the first contract ever to cover 'undocumented workers' (i.e. illegal immigrants from Mexico) has been signed with the Arrowhead Ranch. In the past strikes have been broken by the US immigration service which in contrast to its usual policy of turning a blind eye towards the flow of cheap Mexican labour for local ranches, suddenly woke up when a strike was begun and deported pickets en masse. This time, rather than picketing, the workers simply stayed in the fields and refused to work.

In Ohio farm workers who have been on strike against the corporate farms of Campbell's and Libby's since last August have called for a boycott of company products. The tomato field workers, organized by the 'Farm Labour Organizing Committee', have called for a boycott to begin January 28. The list of products to boycott includes Campbell's soup, Swanson frozen dinners, V-8 Vegetable juice, Pepperidge Farm Products, Granny's Soups, Bounty Canned Chili, Godiva chocolates, Delacre cookies, Franco-American products, Recipe Pet Food, Hanover Trail Restaurants, Herfy's Restaurants and Lexington Garden Centres. The Libby list includes all products with the Libby label and all Nestle products. The Nestle products are, incidentally, already the object of a boycott campaign for their role in promoting malnutrition in the third world.

The Farm Labour Organizing Committee can be contacted at 7144 South St. Clair, Toledo, Ohio 43609, USA. The Nestle Boycott can be reached at Third World Institute, 1701 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414, USA or Infact Canada, 1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C.



ANTI-APARTHEID COALITION CENSORS TROTSKYITES

(New Haven, Conn.) The North East Coalition for the Liberation of South Africa has formally censored the Trotskyite Socialist Workers' Party (SWP) and its student front, the Young Socialist Alliance, for undemocratic procedures. The NECLSA is one of the largest coalitions in the Africa support movement. The resolution of censure read in part that the SWP and its youth wing, the YSA, have consistently violated the democracy of NECLSA in order to establish their dominance within it. As a result they have seriously inhibited the ability of NECLSA to serve the needs of the grassroots anti-apartheid committees. A number of examples of undemocratic procedures were listed in the motion of censure. The most common complaint was a Trotskyite fondness for 'packed meetings'. Also included in the motion of censure was the Workers' Viewpoint organization (ALSC) because of numerous physical attacks made against other left groups.

ASBESTOS HAZARD THREATENS SCHOOL CHILDREN

(Washington, DC) According to the Environmental Defence Fund millions of US school children have been exposed to asbestos levels often far in excess of those allowed in the workplace. The exposure comes from school buildings built from 1940 to 1973 using asbestos as an insulator. So far the federal Environmental Protection Agency has investigated 6,000 schools and found 1,000 of them contain asbestos materials. If the percentage holds true nationally this could mean a hazard to 7 million schoolchildren in this generation alone.

Levels in one New Jersey school were found to be 100 times background. Asbestos fibers have been linked to lung cancer, especially incurable mesothelioma, and to chronic deterioration of the lung tissue. Lag times for these diseases range from 20 to 50 years so children exposed at the present time will run their highest risk decades from now. The January 11 edition of 'New Scientist' noted the higher metabolic rate of children means they are far more likely to inhale the pollutant than adults.

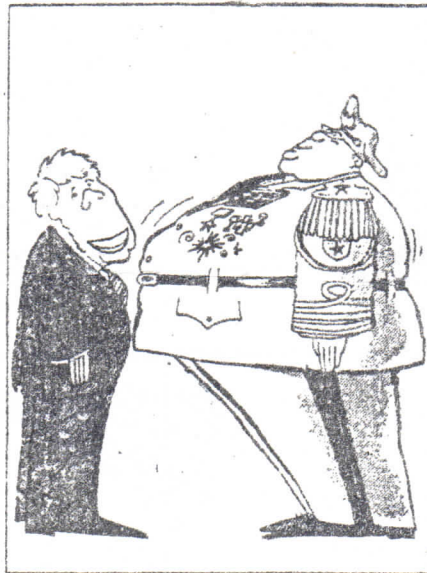
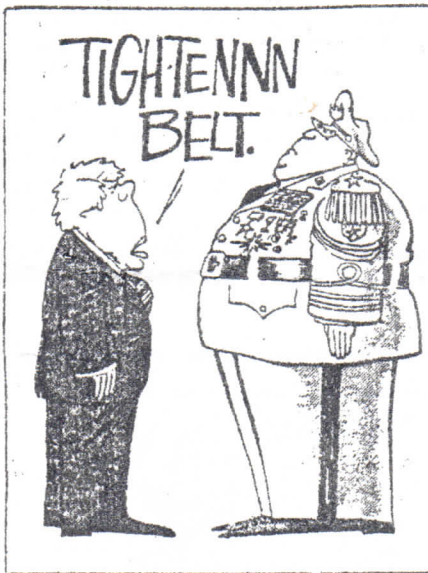
MORE U.S. NEWS ... WORLD REPORT NEXT PAGE

Birds of a feather

(Boston, Mass.) Anita Bryant, best known among right wing circles for a single issue - her campaign against civil rights for homosexuals has begun to branch out into other areas. A couple of months ago she showed up in Massachusetts to lead a rally for Howard Phillips, Director of the Conservative Caucus, who was running for the US Senate on the Democratic ticket. Bomb threats cancelled her appearance at a fund raiser, but a subsequent press conference was widely covered. She also endorsed Tom Anderson, A John Birch Society leader who was also running for office.

Another part of the right wing jigsaw puzzle fits together if we note that Phyllis Schlafly,

prominent opponent of the Equal Rights Amendment in the US, has in the past signed a fund raising letter for Phillip Crane, now a US congressman, during his first campaign for Congress. Crane has had extensive involvement with the John Birch Society, Barry Goldwater's campaign for president in 1964 and numerous other causes of the right. He once arranged a dinner in honour of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, the founder of the 'Unification Church' religious sect which has been involved with the Korean CIA amongst other things. Schlafly herself has in the past addressed the John Birch Society's annual New England rally for God, Family and Country.



'Keep an eye on those Ayrabs, boy'

FORMER CULTIST EXPOSES GURU

(Malibu, California) Robert Mishler, an ex-follower of Hindu cult leader Maharaj Ji, has begun to speak out against his former guru in the wake of the Jonestown massacre. Mishler, who was the worldwide president of the Divine Light Mission, Ji's 'church' organization, until 1976 stated that the "child guru has become an object of veneration instead of a teacher of truth". Mishler spoke of the vast wealth accumulated by the guru, most of it donations from the cult followers. It was estimated that cult membership in the US was about 12,000 with 1.2 million members worldwide, mostly in India.

10,000 DEAD DUE TO UNNEEDED OPERATIONS

(Washington, DC.) U.S. doctors, according to a report prepared by a subcommittee of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, performed about two million unnecessary operations last year. About ten thousand died as a result and the operations cost a total of about \$4 billion. The report noted that death rates vary widely from hospital to hospital, throwing the safety of many into doubt.

ODDS AND ENDS FROM HERE AND THERE

(from the 'Southern Libertarian Messenger')

The U.S. Justice dept. estimates that 1 of every 15 F.B.I. agents is working full-time on freedom of information requests. - In the state wide Republican primary election in South Carolina, both candidates for Governor got exactly zero votes in Chesterfield and McCormick counties. - In Pinal County, Arizona, the Dept. of Public Safety offered to drop marijuana charges against Timothy Sutter in exchange for his 1960 Harley-Davidson to use in undercover work. Meanwhile County Attorney James Don is being sued for extortion in a similar case involving a car. - Parachutists stationed at Cracow, Poland protested being trained for use as political police in an emergency and several soldiers were arrested. - The Croatian Liberation Army captured a police station in Karbovac, Yugoslavia, disarmed and beat police and secret police, freed prisoners, and destroyed records. - Finally... After being raped, Alena Boronova from Brno, Czechoslovakia invited the two men up for a drink, spiked it, and castrated them. Boronova, a veterinarian, has been sentenced to seven years. Local feminists are protesting.

FLASHPOINT



© 1979 Herblock in The Washington Post

'The dictatorship is gone!
Bring on the dictatorship!'

REACTION TO NEW INDOCHINESE WAR

The Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia and the subsequent Chinese invasion of Vietnam have drawn some interesting responses from the splintered communist across the world. Both Yugoslavia and Rumania have condemned the Vietnamese invasion. The Rumanian government called it an "unjustifiable threat to peace and a heavy blow to socialism." Meanwhile, in Hong Kong, semi-official organs of the Communist Chinese government have begun to "dump Pol Pot". Pol Pot, the genocidically inclined former leader of Cambodia, is reported to be leading one guerilla group in Cambodia. Reports are, however, at least two other rival anti-Vietnamese guerilla organizations. One is a group loyal to Peking and Si-hanouk, the "communist" prince. The latter seems to be Peking's choice as Cambodian leader. Another is a group of 'neutralist' communists.

The Maoist report in Hong Kong stated that Pol Pot would return to power "the day he changes his policies totally". Look for upcoming changes of line from Canadian and U.S. Maoists as news filters down via the Chinese embassy.

ANGLICAN BISHOP DEFENDS BOMB

(London, England) The Archbishop of Canterbury Donald Coggan has defended the US production of the neutron bomb, the weapon that destroys people but not property. In a recently released letter to the Russian Orthodox Patriarch Pimen, Coggan stated that the neutron bomb was "a deterrent against further deployment of nuclear weapons by the Soviet Union".

KHOMAINI BY DAYLIGHT

(Tehran) As we write these words the Iranian revolution is drawing to its inevitable sad conclusion as the 'Islamic police' of the new government begin to draw the net about the numerically weak but well armed Iranian left. We have no doubt that the world's Trotskyists and Maoists will soon have another defeat to mourn and will soon begin to do what they have failed to do up to this point, i.e., let their followers know about the real character of the "dictator who replaced a dictator". In the interests of truth we would like to publish the following few excerpts from a series of Khomeini's speeches in Iraq in 1970 on 'Islamic Government'. We think they speak for themselves concerning the repressive theocracy in store for the Iranian population.

"In Tehran, Christian, Zionist and Bahai missionary centers issue their publications in order to mislead people and to alienate them from the teachings and principles of religion. Is it not our duty to demolish these centres?"

"... the government, authority and management over the people as well as the collection and expenditure of revenues, has been entrusted to the religious experts. Verily, God will punish and call to account anyone who takes issue with their authority."

"We want a ruler who could cut off the hand of his own son if he steals, and would flog and stone his near relative if he fornicates."



FRANCE MAY DEPORT SPANISH EXILES

(Paris) On the 30th of January the French ministry of Immigrant Affairs announced that Spanish exiles would no longer be allowed the status of refugee in France. The new government decree said that the reasons for the change included the new Spanish constitution, the general amnesty for political prisoners of last year, and the 'democratization' of the Spanish regime. At the moment, however, several hundred political prisoners, most of them Basques or anarchists are being held in Spanish jails. They were not released during the amnesty because they had been convicted of acts of guerilla war against the Franco regime. On the morning of the French government's declaration 7 Spanish refugees were expelled to Spain.

INTERNATIONAL

(Peking, China) China's central committee decided in late January to restore the property of the capitalists who had been expropriated during the 'cultural revolution' many of China's industries were managed as 'mixed state and private' firms. The new decree restored the status quo. The decree noted "the enthusiasm of the old commercial and industrial capitalists and their contribution to the development of tourism, services, foreign trade and mixed enterprises".



CHINESE DEMONSTRATE. Chanting Chinese peasants shout for more food, an end to oppression, new human rights and jobs during a peaceful Jan. 14 demonstration in Peking. A peasant from Kiangsu province said, "We will not leave Peking until we have seen Chairman Hua to give him a letter containing our demands or until a good decision has been made concerning us. If the decision is a good one, we will return home. If it is bad, we'll stay." (RNS Photo)

NEW NON-VIOLENT MOVEMENT SCORES SUCCESS

(Dhule, India) A march of farm labourers in the Dhule district of Maharashtra appears to have led to the latest of a long series of successes for the Shranik Sanghatana. The Sanghatana, which is similar to the more publicized Sarvodaya movement, was formed on January 30, 1972 and has since had a number of successes in the struggle for land reform and against untouchability. They have also succeeded in having a private police force of caste Hindus abolished. While dedicated to non-violence the new movement differs from the Sarvodaya in that it has no 'father figure' such as J.P. Narayan or Vinoba Bhavé and is molded in a secular rather than religious style. Also, unlike the Sarvodaya, which aligned itself with the political opposition to get rid of Mrs. Gandhi, the Sanghatana has remained scrupulously true to its pledge of non-alignment with any political party. While generally recognized as more 'leftist' than the Sarvodaya the Sanghatana also attacked the 'caste-Hindu' bias of the leaders of India's communist parties and other so-called 'progressive' organizations.

The recent march, held in early February, was one of the few occasions when Harijans (untouchables), Adivasis (another lower Indian caste) and caste Hindus have marched side by side in any union. Unions organized by the movement have raised wages paid to farm labourers by as much as 50% in some cases, and observers on the scene report that it appears to be more effective than the Sarvodaya

INDONESIAN SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS ON DECLINE

(Jakarta, Indonesia) The nationalists fighting for the independence of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor appears to have been defeated. The movement, which was given some prominence in the first issue of Canada's leading anarchist journal, the Open Road, lost its president, Nicolai Lobate, in an ambush on the last day of 1976. The previous president, Francisco do Amaral had been captured, and has since appealed to the supporters of the Fretlin Front to lay down their arms. Also last December Fretlin's information and security minister, Alarice Fernandes, went over to the Indonesian side. The leadership of Fretlin, what remains of it, is split by deep disagreements and is faced with an inability to mount any military attacks.

Elsewhere in Indonesia, the rebellion in Papua-Western New Guinea which was incorporated in 1969 by Indonesia has suffered both military defeats and serious splits. The basic disagreement is whether an independent Papua will be 'socialist' or multi-party. Finally, a third uprising at Atjeh, on the island of Sumatra, a stronghold of muslim extremism, appears to have fizzled out.

(con't page 16)

ANTI-NUCLEAR NOTES

MAN ARRESTED FOR URANIUM THEFT

(Washington, DC) A Mr. David Dale has been charged with attempting to extort \$100,000 from General Electric Company after stealing 150 pounds of low grade uranium from a GE plant in Wilmington, North Carolina. All of the uranium was apparently found in a field 8 kilometers from the plant. This theft has raised questions about the security of the US nuclear industry's materials as the thief apparently had only a minimal knowledge of the area and security of the plant.

FILIPINO TOWN THREATENED BY NUCLEAR PLANT

(Morong, Philippines) The 13,000 residents of the municipality of Morong have been living in fear since they first heard, in 1976, of plans to 're-locate' them to make way for a new nuclear power plant, the Philippines' first. Since then the community has been under intensive repression. More than 30 people have been arrested because of meetings held to organize against the plant. The local protestant minister was removed after he questioned government ministers at a local meeting. While waiting to be evicted the local population has not benefited much from the construction boom. Most workers are bused in from Manila, and all workers make about \$2.00 per day.

RESEARCHERS CAST DOUBT ON RADIATION SAFETY LEVELS

(Berkeley, California) Professor Alice Stewart of the University of Birmingham cast doubt on much of the 'safety limits' set for low level radiation in her speech at the recent annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Houston, Texas. Stewart's speech presented the findings of Stewart, Thomas Mancuso and George Kneale in their work on the health records of employees at the US Hanford nuclear establishment. The researchers found the usual method of estimating cancer risk, that of extrapolating from a straight line drawn from higher exposures may grossly underestimate the actual risk involved at low radiation levels.

JUDGE SENTENCES ANTI-NUKE PROTESTORS

(Seattle, Wash.) US District Judge Donald Vorhees sentenced 176 protestors found guilty of trespassing at the Trident nuclear submarine base under construction near Bangor, Washington. The sentences which were handed down in late January were mostly suspended sentences, but 5 people were sentenced to 45 days in the federal pen.

NUKE PLANT GETS OFF LIGHT ON SAFETY VIOLATIONS

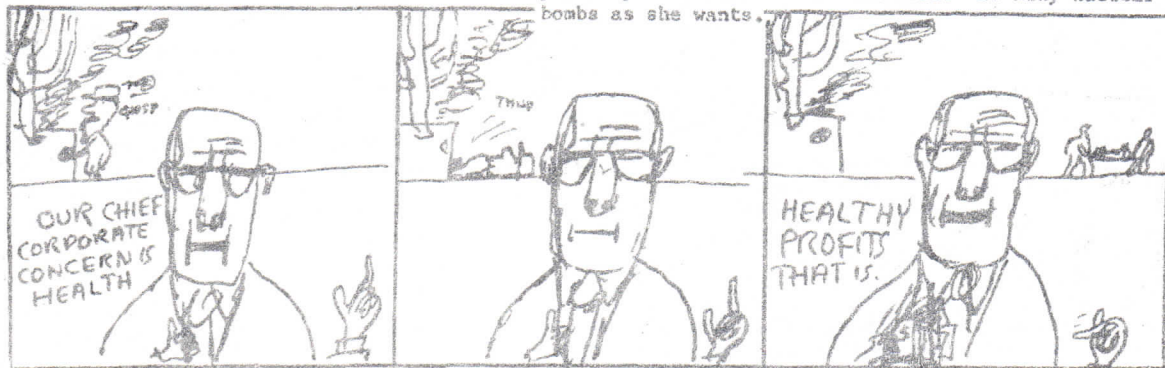
(Toms River, New Jersey) Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials have fined the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant operating here a mere \$26,000 for over 90 violations of health, safety and protection regulations over a three year period. The violations included failure to measure airborne radioactivity, failure to limit concentrations of airborne radioactivity, failure to properly use respiratory protection equipment, failure to barricade and post warnings of 'high radiation areas', failure to follow plant radiation protection procedures, failure to properly label containers of radioactive material and failure to post warning signs on radioactive material storage areas. The plant was also charged with failing to properly inspect parcels coming into the site and failing to lock doors leading into the plant building.

US ENERGY REPORT BOOSTS SOLAR AS ENERGY OPTION

(Washington, D.C.) Solar energy, once looked down upon by government bureaucrats as an impractical solution to the 'energy crisis', is receiving a second look these days. In a recently released report the Energy Policy Committee of the US Department of Energy has stated it is possible to supply close to 40% of the US energy needs by solar power by the year 2000. While the report's authors felt that shooting for the 40% level would be inflationary they did recommend that a goal of 25% be set. It was felt that a relatively modest (compared to nuclear power costs) outlay of \$2.5 billion in the first five years of such a plan would be sufficient to set the country off to the goal. Most of this outlay would be in the form of tax credits and subsidized loans for the purchase of solar units - as opposed to the present grants to corporations involved in the nuclear industry. The report also recommended that research efforts be directed towards "community-scale applications" as opposed to "centralized facilities".

INDIA GOES NUCLEAR WITH SOVIET HELP

(New Delhi) India's faltering atomic energy program has been given a shoot in the arm with a recently signed (January 22) agreement with the Soviet Union for nuclear cooperation. The new agreement includes fast breeder technology. The new agreement comes in the wake of delays in the finalization of agreements with the US concerning supplies of enriched uranium. The US had been insisting on India's agreement to abide by 'full scale' International Atomic Energy Authority regulations for control of reactor uranium. Russia apparently feels that India can build as many nuclear bombs as she wants.



UAS 11-7P-MC

SCIENCE



"He drinks one, then needs three more to forget about the cancer in the first."

From the 'it-had-to-happen-sooner-or-later' dept.
...GERMAN SCIENTISTS DETECT CARCINOGENS IN BEER.

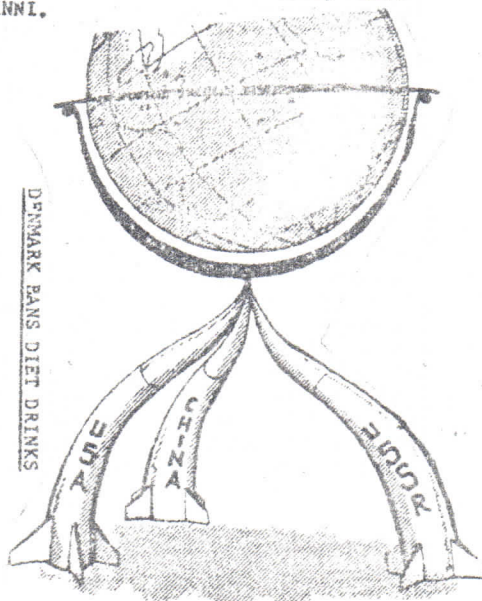
Scientists at the German Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg have discovered traces of nitrosamines, one of the strongest known cancer inducing agents, in beers made in Germany, Britain, and some other European countries.

A two year study of 158 beers revealed traces of nitrosamines in 70% of the samples. The chemical which is thought to be produced by contact with nitrous oxide when the beer's malt is dried, was found in much higher levels than in foodstuffs such as pickled meats, ham and sausage also included in the study. Dark beers and strong beers such as lager and pilsner according to the head of the research team, Professor Rudolf Preussman, contained the highest levels overall.

NEW COMPUTER PROGRAM USES ORDINARY ENGLISH

(Newtonville, Mass.) A new computer program which understands 'ordinary English' instead of the standard computer languages such as Cobol, or Fortran has brought the day of 'computers for the masses' one step closer. The new program, developed by Berkeley Enterprises Inc. of Newtonville, Mass. has been named DJINNI.

A recommendation brought forward by the E.F.C.'s Scientific Committee for Food, limiting the acceptable daily intake of Saccharin, an artificial sweetener used in diet soft drinks, was passed into law July 1st of this year. Previously 150 - 250 mg/litre of the sweetener could be added to the contents of the drinks. The new limit of 75 mg/litre is insufficient for use as a substitute for sugar. However a combination of Saccharin and sugar may still be used.



DENMARK BANS DIET DRINKS

SPORTS

Torment of animals

With the annual Regina Agribition recently ended I'm reminded of an article printed in the Sept. 23 issue of The Leader-Post which dealt with the proceedings of the annual general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. One of the complaints raised by that organization concerned the treatment of animals, cattle and horses, at rodeos.

At the convention, Dr. Harry Roswell, executive director of the Canadian Council on Animal Care, asked how the Canadian Rodeo Cowboys Association could justify the use of torment to make the animals buck.

In reply, Dr. D. C. Lund, a veterinarian and rodeo rider for 17 years said horses were subjected to torment, but it was a matter of degree.

I would like to know how that "degree" is supposed to be a justification for what has got to be one of the most assinine, childish and stupid excuses for a sport going?

For people who are unfamiliar with the details of the ways in which cattle and horses are made to "fish for the sun," a leather strap similar to a cinch on a saddle is tightly fastened around the body of a horse or bull immediately in front of the hind legs.

This causes pressure against the kidneys and abdomen which along with the weight of a rider drives the animal to buck. It is an article of faith amongst the "yahoos" to defend this practice for heaven knows what reason.

Apparently there are even people around who raise horses and bulls to be "mean" just for the rodeo circuits. So much for that baloney about rodeo horses being old cow ponies that went "sour."

Perhaps it's more than just coincidence that most cattle ranchers, will not hire anyone with ambitions for rodeo.

Also interesting is the fact that the old-fashioned so-named "cowboy" method of breaking and training horses which is presented in stylized form at rodeos has now fallen into disrepute in all western equitation including training for ranch work.

One wonders then, just what these jokers are trying to prove?

I think the Humane Society people should get on this thing heavily in the future, perhaps in the form of a boycott against the "western" equivalent of bear-baiting and cock-fighting.

MICHAEL KRONSTADT

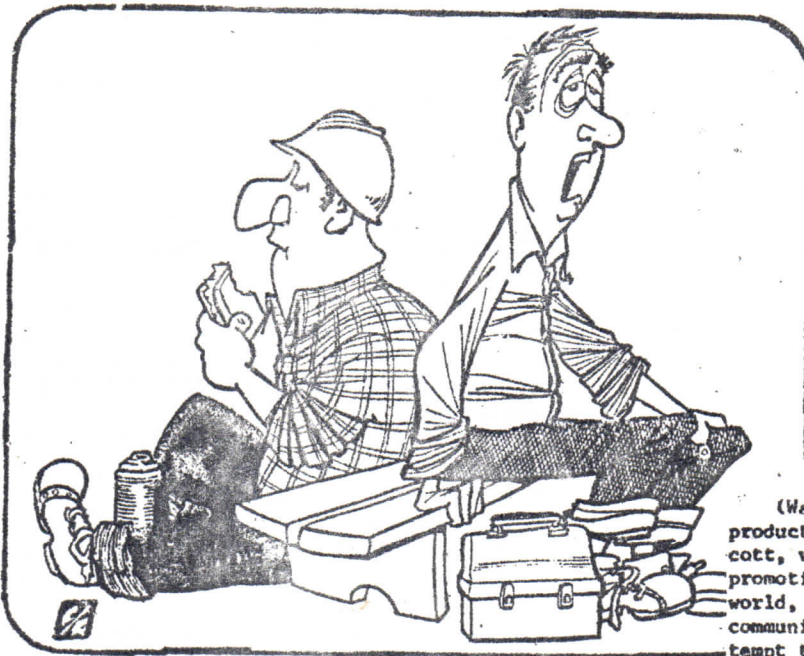
*M.K. is a pseudonym used by the editor of FP.

ATH

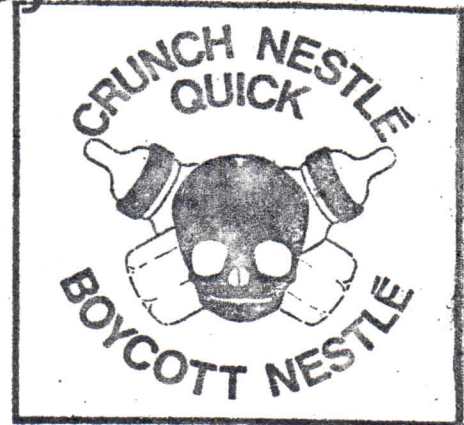
PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
THE PHILADELPHIA POST TRIBUNE 1980

Flashpoint

solidarity



"Just once I'd like a contract without being blamed for inflation, warts, Mid-East crises, mass layoffs, sink backup, gumpie suicides, mange, seagull lice, dandelion infestation..."



NESTLE BOTHERED BY BOYCOTT

(Washington, DC) The growing boycott of Nestle products has begun to worry that company. The boycott, which was initiated to fight the malnutrition promoting effects of Nestle products in the third world, has attracted the support of numerous church community, labour and political groups. In an attempt to counter this support Nestle has gone so far as to send representatives to the University of Notre Dame, the U.S. Catholic Conference and the Vatican itself to urge church withdrawal of support from the boycott.

THE GHOST WALKS

(New York City) Here's one for the nostalgic! Friends of famed sixties radical Abbie Hoffman are still working at their attempt to persuade the State of New York to allow him to return from his present underground status. Organizers of the ' Bring Abbie Home Campaign ' are campaigning for the District Attorney of New York to drop all charges resulting from a possible frameup on charges of possession of cocaine several years ago. They are asking all helpful souls to send a short note to that effect to the DA, care of ' Bring Abbie Home ', Box 392, Canal Street Station, New York City, NY, 10013, USA.

INCO
WORKERSNEED YOUR
HELP

The striking workers at International Nickel in Sudbury were forced into their present situation by an arrogant multinational corporation.

This same company laid off 4,000 workers earlier this year.

But Sudbury is cold in winter

Send them what you can. Tell them you're with them.

Strike Fund, c/o Local 6500
United Steelworkers,
92 Froid Road
Sudbury, Ontario.

(Edmonton) The Edmonton chapter of the Canadian Association to Liberate Marijuana (CALM) has put out a new paper - Prairie Weed. The new paper is devoted to CALM's objective of repealing all laws restricting the use of marijuana. Good editorial content, with lots of 'how to do it' about such things as press releases, meetings, legal matters, etc. Also a certain amount of news that you are unlikely to find anywhere else. Copies of the new paper can be ordered from Flashpoint or from CALM Box 115, Student's Union Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

flashpoints:

FLASHPOINT LITERATURE SERVICE, Box 3658, Regina
Saskatchewan, Canada
S4P - 3N8

1) Comics

	price
Corporate Crime Comics	\$1.00
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White Comanche (Indian history)	\$1.00
Blood on the Moon "	\$1.00
All Atomic Comics (anti-nukes)	\$1.00
Women's Comix #2	\$0.75
Women's Comix #7	\$1.00

2) Pamphlets

Anarchism and Formal Organization	\$0.90
Socialism, Anarchism, and Feminism	\$0.80
For Democracy Where We Work	.85
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Breakdown/Data on the Decomposition of Society	.05
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Anarchism, The Feminist Connection	.10
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A Workers Guide to Direct Action	.25
A Brief History of the C.N.T.	.05
Come Out (Gay Liberation)	\$1.00
Anarchist Communism - Kropotkin	.15
History of the I.W.W. in Canada	.10
Bakunin and Nechaev	\$1.50
God and the State	(sold out)

3) Papers

Flashpoint - some back issues available	.25
Open Road - Vancouver anarchist quarterly	.60
Freedom - oldest anarchist paper in Britain	.40
The Industrial Worker - IWW house organ	.25
Prairie Weed - repeal of drug laws	.25
The Crazy Paper - assorted things	.25
Zero - anarchist/feminist from Britain (discontinued)	
Bayou LaRose - American anarchist paper	\$1.00
The Red Menace - Canadian left marxist	.75

4) Books

The Kronstadt Uprising	\$1.45
The Unknown Revolution	\$7.50
Break the Chains of Legalized US Slavery (Women's prison book)	\$2.00
The Genocide Machine in Canada	\$3.95
The Bolsheviks and Workers' Control	\$1.50
The IWW, Its First Seventy Years	\$4.95
The Russian Tragedy	\$3.00
A Primer of Libertarian Education	\$3.95
Working in Canada	\$3.95
The End of Inequality? Stratification Under State Socialism	\$1.65
The Anarchist Reader	\$3.95
Quebec and Radical Social Change	\$3.95
New Reformation - Notes of a Neolithic Conservative - P. Goodman	\$1.25
People or Personnel - Goodman	\$1.50

5) Anarchist Post Cards

A selection of designs - ea.	.20
	3 for .50

LETTERS...

Dear Friends,

Here's \$5 for a sub to Flashpoint. I find it an interesting mag, although unlike two previous writers I find the tiny print irritating and not easy to read. I know, picky-picky, keep up the good work.

Yours in solidarity
Mic Hunt

ed.- Thanks for subscribing. Your right about the type size, but a 74% reduction from the original typewritten copy is the largest size available here. Doing it full size would not leave us with much room for articles. We're hoping to go to a proper tabloid format sometime in the summer. This should be no problem financially if individual readers continue to send in donations at the rate of the past few weeks.

Comrades,

Just received the latest issue of the Flashpoint. Congrats on the improving quality of the publication. Congrats, also on your dedication - from the appearance of your copy, it looks like you're using a manual typewriter and manually justifying your copy, which I consider a hideous job.

A couple of suggestions re your layout; you might want to avoid "tombstoning" (running two headlines next to each other), it doesn't look good and depending on the wording, can lead to momentary confusion; I'd also suggest that you invest in some border tape; properly used it greatly increases visual appeal.

ed.- Thanks for your cheque and criticisms. Actually for the latest issue (Jan. and Feb.) we were using an electric typewriter, although admittedly it is not the best machine of its kind, (\$70.00 used). The manual justifying is difficult but with practice does not require more then a day's work for all the copy in one issue. As for the headlines and borders we're aware, for example, a heading going across the page would look better and we've tried to do this in some instances. However, because we also must manually space out our headlines using rub-on decals, the smaller the headline, the easier and faster it can be pasted up. Using continuous borders around an article(s) can cause the printing stencil to be weakened to the point where it may disintegrate entirely. This happened in our September issue! There isnt any reason though why we could not draw in very fine lines between every headline which might be "running on" or perhaps stagger the headlines on a given page.

New Magazines:

The Sheffield Anarchist - Sheffield Libertarian Society.- P.O. Box 168, Sheffield, England, S11 8SE

Free Socialist - " An Occasional Paper of Anarchist Opinion. " P.O. Box 1751, San Francisco, C.A. U.S.A.

Toronto Anarchist - is produced by the Toronto Anarchist Group (TAG) who say they are willing... " to accept Leninists w/ have seen the light and liberals who want a better idea. " TAG - P.O. Box 2, Stn. "O", Toronto, Canada.

- C'est fini.

International news
from page 11.

NEW DISSIDENT JOURNAL IN USSR

(Moscow) Twenty three of the USSR's most prominent writers have founded a new 'unofficial' literary journal, *Metropol*. The journal's authors, who intend to submit the journal for possible publication by the state publishing house, "the only legal publisher in the USSR, stated that Soviet cultural life " suffers from something like a chronic ailment which might be defined either as 'hostility to difference' or simply as 'fear of literature'." The new journal was founded to provide a 'home' for writings which the official publishing house has censored or refused to publish. The first issue contained articles with religious or sexual themes, matters usually forbidden in Soviet writings. Two of the typewritten copies of the new journal have reached the West.



SIX PALESTINIAN STUDENTS CONFINED TO VILLAGES FOR PRO-PLO ATTITUDE

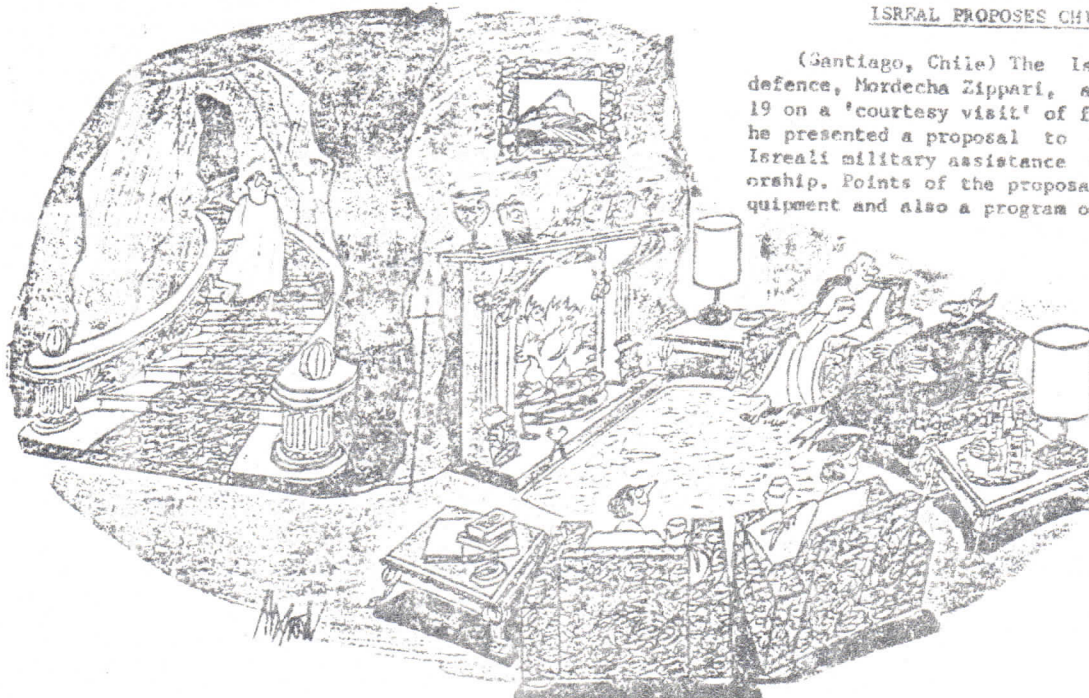
(Jerusalem) Six Palestinian students, members of the newly formed 'Progressive National Movement' and signers of a cable to a Damascus meeting of the Palestinian National Council, have been given military orders in return to their home villages and remain there. The six were students at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and their banning was in response to demands for their expulsion by the Students' Union at that University. Students' Unions across Israel have taken similar positions.

NARAYAN HITS 'RITUALISTIC' REMEMBRANCE OF GANDHI

(Patna, India) In a speech on January 30, the anniversary of the death of Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, the present leader of the Sarvodaya movement founded by Gandhi, said that "remembering Gandhi has become a ritual today. This ritual is meaningless unless it is backed by a determination to follow the path shown by him." Mr. Narayan particularly condemned the unseemly scramble for power " of both the government and the opposition and noted that Gandhi believed power should be decentralized throughout society rather than being taken by the state. He also lashed out at the continued ill treatment afforded the Harijans, India's untouchables.

ISRAEL PROPOSES CHILEAN ALLIANCE

(Santiago, Chile) The Israeli vice minister of defence, Mordechai Zippori, arrived in Chile on Jan. 19 on a 'courtesy visit' of five days. While there he presented a proposal to the military junta for Israeli military assistance to the Chilean dictatorship. Points of the proposal included military equipment and also a program of 'advisors'.



"Mind you, propagandawise the Christians do a superb job."

"THIS IS A DEMOCRATIC FIRM, MAY...
THEY MEDIATE EVERYONE REGARD-
LESS OF RACE, CREED OR COLOR."